

Amtd. dated July 14, 2004
Reply to Office action of 06/14/2004

Serial No. 09/670,736
Docket No. POU920000103US1
Firm No. 0066.0080

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The examiner has rejected independent claims 1, 9, and 17. The Examiner has allowed independent claims 8, 16, and 24. The Examiner has objected to independent claims 3, 11, 19 and 25-27 but indicated that the objected claims would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling non-allowable claims.

In response, Applicants have canceled non-allowable rejected independent claims 1, 9, and 17. Applicants have also amended the claims 2, 4, 10, 12, 13, 18, 20 that depended on the canceled independent claims 1, 9, 17, such that, the amended dependent claims 2, 4, 10, 12, 13, 18, 20 depend on one of the independent claims 25-27 that are either allowed or currently in a condition for allowance.

As a result, all pending dependent claims depend directly or indirectly on one of the pending independent claims 8, 16, 24, 3, 11, 19, and 25-27 that are either allowed or currently in a condition for allowance.

Therefore, Applicants maintain that pending claims 2-8, 10-16, and 18-27 are either allowed or in a condition for allowance. The other claims 1, 9, and 17 have been canceled.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 2-8, 10-16, and 18-27 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants have indicated appropriate fees to be charged. However, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0585.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 557-2292 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

Dated: July 14, 2004

By: Rabindranath Dutta

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